

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 29

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to commend Joan Nelson for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Joan Nelson is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Nelson has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, an exceptional asset to her community, and a passionate advocate for continued focus on civil rights and cultural equality; and

WHEREAS, a native of Lexington, Tennessee, Joan Nelson attended Manassas High School and Memphis State University; her major areas of study have been Political Science and Sociology, and she is currently enrolled at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, at a very young age, Ms. Nelson participated in the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; early in her career, she was a job counselor and social worker for the Memphis Housing Authority and the City of Memphis Human Services Division; these and other experiences led her to hope and plan for a better future for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Joan Nelson works steadfastly to keep African-American history and cultural awareness alive through her involvement in Heritage Tours, Inc., which she founded and co-owns; the Slavehaven Underground Railroad Museum; the Underground Railroad Living Legacy Museum; and the W.C. Handy House Museum; and

WHEREAS, her peerless public service was recognized by her receipt of the Food Folks Award from Governor Ned McWherter; and

WHEREAS, Joan Nelson's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Joan Nelson is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Joan Nelson is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend Ms. Joan Nelson for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee, as a civil rights leader and keeper of the flame, extend our appreciation for her dedication to justice for all, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.